

December 3, 2023, 10:30 a.m. First Sunday of Advent

First United Methodist Church of Newton 111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton NJ

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE Christie Spriggs

GREETING Rev. Todd Lattig

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Hope) Evelyn Cornwell

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Kathleen Meredith

Open your eyes, open your ears, God is coming soon!

We enter into this Advent season awaiting the One!

This is a time of joyful remembrance, a time to retell the story.

The story of how and why Jesus came to earth!

Open your eyes, open your ears, keep awake —

For the Son is coming soon!

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Kathleen Meredith

"Stay awake!" you urge. And so we shall. May it not be insomnia, born of anxiety, but other eagerness, knowing that you, God of surprises, are up to something. Amen

ANTHEM "Advent Gloria" Chancel Choir

MISSION MOMENT Rev. Lattig

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith

Mark 13:24-37

24 "At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened,

the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

²⁸ "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door. ³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³³ And since you don't know when that time will come, be on

guard! Stay alert!

of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. ³⁵ You, too, must keep watch! For you don't know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. ³⁶ Don't let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. ³⁷ I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!"

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God for this Word

Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON PREPARE: "Keep Awake"

Rev. Lattig

HOLY COMMUNION

(see insert)

OFFERTORY

Christie Spriggs

Please proceed up the center aisle to place your offering in the plate or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically using PayPal or Tithe.ly.

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Kathleen Meredith

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming into the world to show us a better way, to teach us everlasting truth, and to offer us a life abundant. Amen.

*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH 211 v. 1=4

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE Christie Spriggs

s Week's Schedule
10-11 Chair Yoga (HH)
11:30-12:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)
10-1 Life With Joy (HH)
6 Cub Scouts (HH)
6 Hypnosis for Health (Media Ctr
10-3 Life With Joy (HH)
10-1 Life With Joy (HH)
7 Choir Rehearsal
9-2 Treasures of Hope
11 Celebration of Life: Terry Iliff
9 Joy Fellowship (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

Tithe.ly

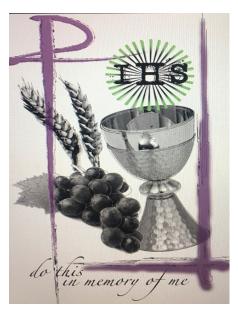


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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship Advent Candle Liturgist Liturgist Greeter Camera Operator Soundboard Operator Rev. Todd Lattig Christie Spriggs Evelyn Cornwell Kathleen Meredith Fred Fox Jen Phlegar Jay Morrison



Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

